

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

| Application of the CITY OF SAN MATEO for |
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| an Order Authorizing Construction of two new |
| grade separated vehicular underpasses and one |
| pedestrian underpass at PCJPB MPs 19.92, 20.15 |
| and 20.03 (DOT No. 973 108 V, 973 109C and |
| 973 110W) in the City of San Mateo in the |
| County of San Mateo |

| A1707006 | |
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|) Application No. | |
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APPLICATION

- 1. The City of San Mateo, hereinafter referred to as "CITY," respectfully requests authority from this Commission to construct two new grade separated pedestrian underpass owned and operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB) in the City of San Mateo in the County of San Mateo at PCJPB Mileposts 19.92, 20.15, and 20.03 (DOT No. 973 108 V, 973 109C and 973 110W). The new underpasses are located at 28th Avenue, 31st Avenue and the new Hillsdale Station, respectively. The CITY has been pursuing the development of the 25th Avenue Grade Separation project, which includes these three new crossings as well as grade separating the existing at-grade crossing at 25th Avenue, through the cooperative efforts of many funding agencies.
- 2. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, herein referred to as "PCJPB", is a public agency providing commuter train services that owns and operates a standard gauge railroad system in the Counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, in the State of California and said public agency owns and operates railroad tracks at the location of the project herein proposed to be constructed. The railroad corridor at this location has two

tracks that carry over ninety (90) passenger trains per day for both tracks. The approximate speed for the commuter trains is 79 mph.

3. All correspondence, communication, notices, orders and other papers relative to this application should be addressed to:

> City of San Mateo Attention: Brad Underwood, Director of Public Works 300 W. 20th Avenue San Mateo, CA 94403 Telephone: 650-522-7300

Fax: 650-522-7301

Email: <u>bunderwood@cityofsanmateo.org</u>

Pursuant to Rule 2.1(b), the CITY consents to e-mail service at:

bunderwood@cityofsanmateo.org

4. Copies of such correspondence, notices, orders and other papers should also be addressed to the PCJPB:

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Attention: Rafael Bolon, Acting Deputy Director – Capital Projects 1250 San Carlos Avenue, 4th Floor San Carlos, CA 94070

Telephone: 650-622-7805

Fax: 650-508-7938

Email: bolonr@samtrans.com

- 5. This application and relief sought herein is filed pursuant to Sections 1201 through 1205, inclusive, of the Public Utilities Code of the State of California and is made in accordance Rule 3.7 of the California Public Utilities Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- 6. The 25th Avenue Grade Separation project includes construction of approximately one (1) mile of new railroad grade-separation, from Hillsdale Avenue to SR-92, by partially raising the rails in a lightweight-cellular-concrete (LCC) filled MSE wall, partially

depressing the existing road at 25th Avenue, and constructing two (2) new road connections at 28th and 31st Avenues. The grade crossings require the installation of two (2) new concrete precast bridges and one (1) steel bridge. The bridges shall be supported by CIDH and cast in place abutments and center columns. In addition, the project will construct a new elevated, center-board, Caltrain station, with access from 28th avenue, as well as from a two-cell cast-in-place pedestrian viaduct. The project will also include grading and drainage improvement, changes to existing traffic lights, additional street and platform lighting, relocation of existing rail signals, and custom made shelters and other amenities at the station.

- 7. Environmental resources will be protected during and after the construction. Much of the proposed track alignment will be located parallel to the existing railroad tracks at the edge of the railroad right-of way. As set forth in the project plans accompanying this application, horizontal and vertical clearances from the railroad tracks will comply with CPUC General Order 26-D.
 - 8. The nearest public crossings along the railroad tracks are:
 - → 105E-19.52, DOT # 754910E: 25th Avenue At-Grade Crossing in City of San Mateo
 - → 105E-20.06-D, DOT # 754912T: Hillsdale Station North Pedestrian Crossing in City of San Mateo
- 9. The project was advertised in December 2016 with construction anticipated to commence late summer in 2017. The construction will be completed within three years.
 - 10. The following exhibits are transmitted in support of the present application:
 - Location and Vicinity Maps attached hereto as Exhibit A;

- General Plans including Plan, Elevation and Sections as **Exhibits B**;
- Legal Description, attached hereto as Exhibit C; and
- Memo regarding CEQA exemption, attached hereto as Exhibit D.
- 11. Final plans for the proposed project were prepared by PCJPB. The CITY and PCJPB are in agreement with respect to the necessity for said construction. Copies of the final plans approved by PCJPB, the "Construction and Maintenance" and the "Right-of-Way" Agreements will be provided separately to the Safety and Enforcement Division staff in San Francisco. The City has secured funding for this project under Measure A, City, State Section 190, and State HSR Prop 1A funds.
- 12. The City is the lead agency for this project. The project has been developed so as to give detailed consideration to the potential impact upon the quality of the environment. The PCJPB has determined the 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project to be statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code Section 21080.13 which provides exemption from CEQA.

| Dated at San Mateo, California, t | his | 11 | date of | JUL | , 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|---------|-----|--------|
| | | | _ | | |

CITY OF SAN MATEO

By: Brad Underwood, Director of Public Works

VERIFICATION (CPUC Rule 1.11)

For Applicant City of San Mateo:

I, Brad Underwood, hereby declare that I am the Director of Public Works for the City of San Mateo; that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of said Agency and that I have read the foregoing Application and know the contents thereof. The statements in the foregoing Application are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters that are herein stated on information or belief, as to those matters I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at San Mateo, California on _______, 2017

Brad Underwood / Director of Public Works

City of San Mateo

EXHIBIT A

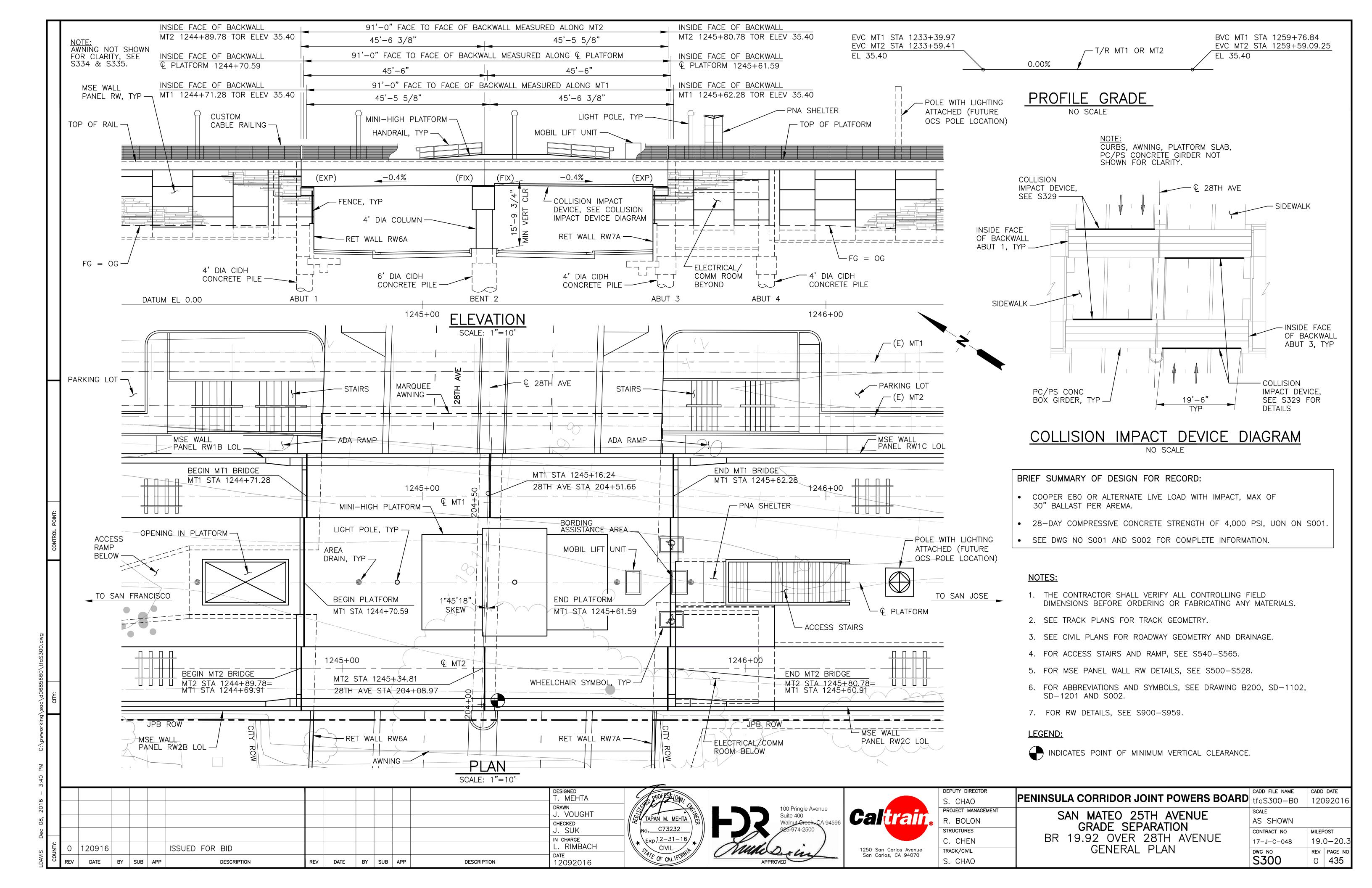
Location and Vicinity Map

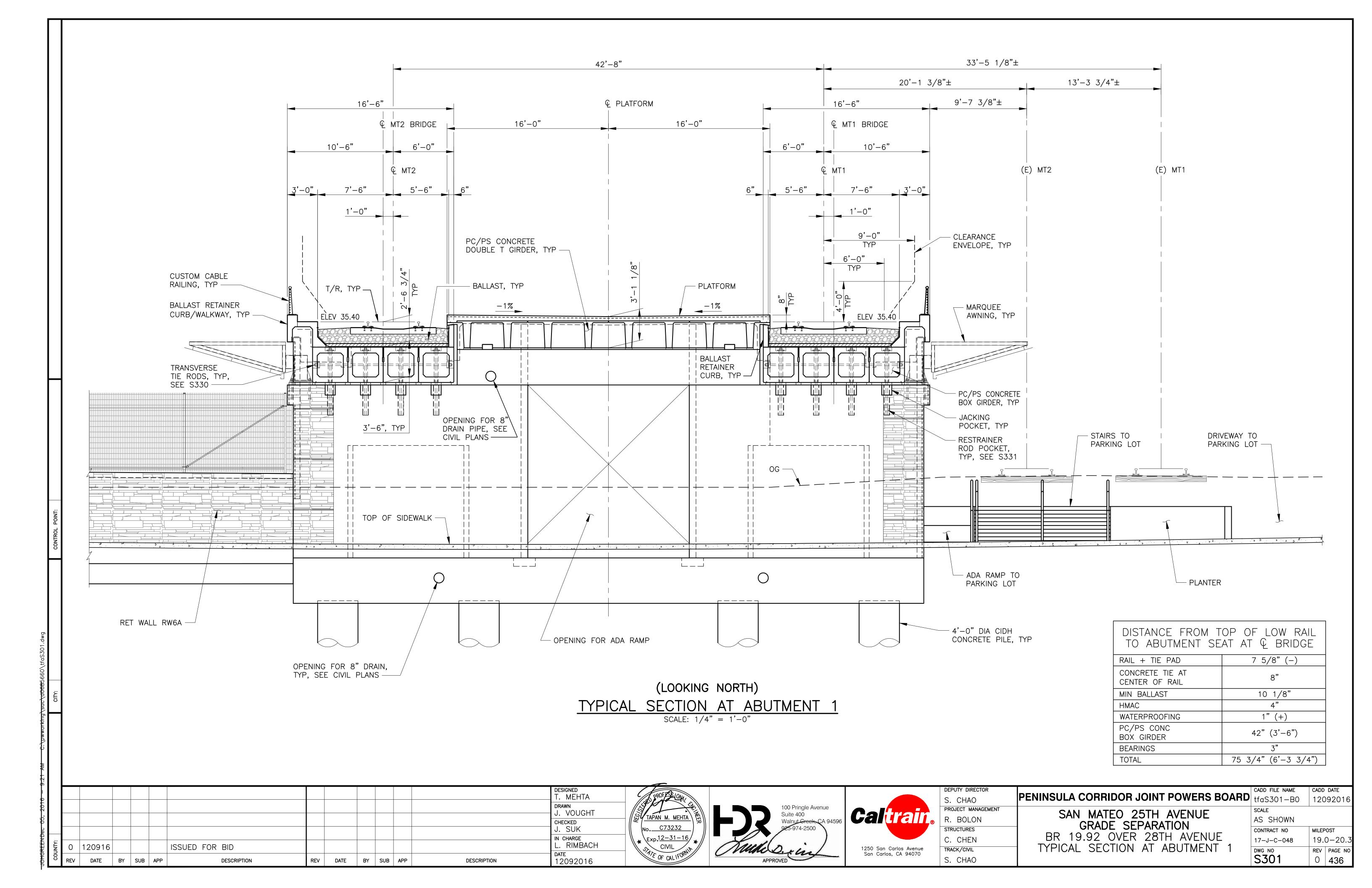
Vicinity Map

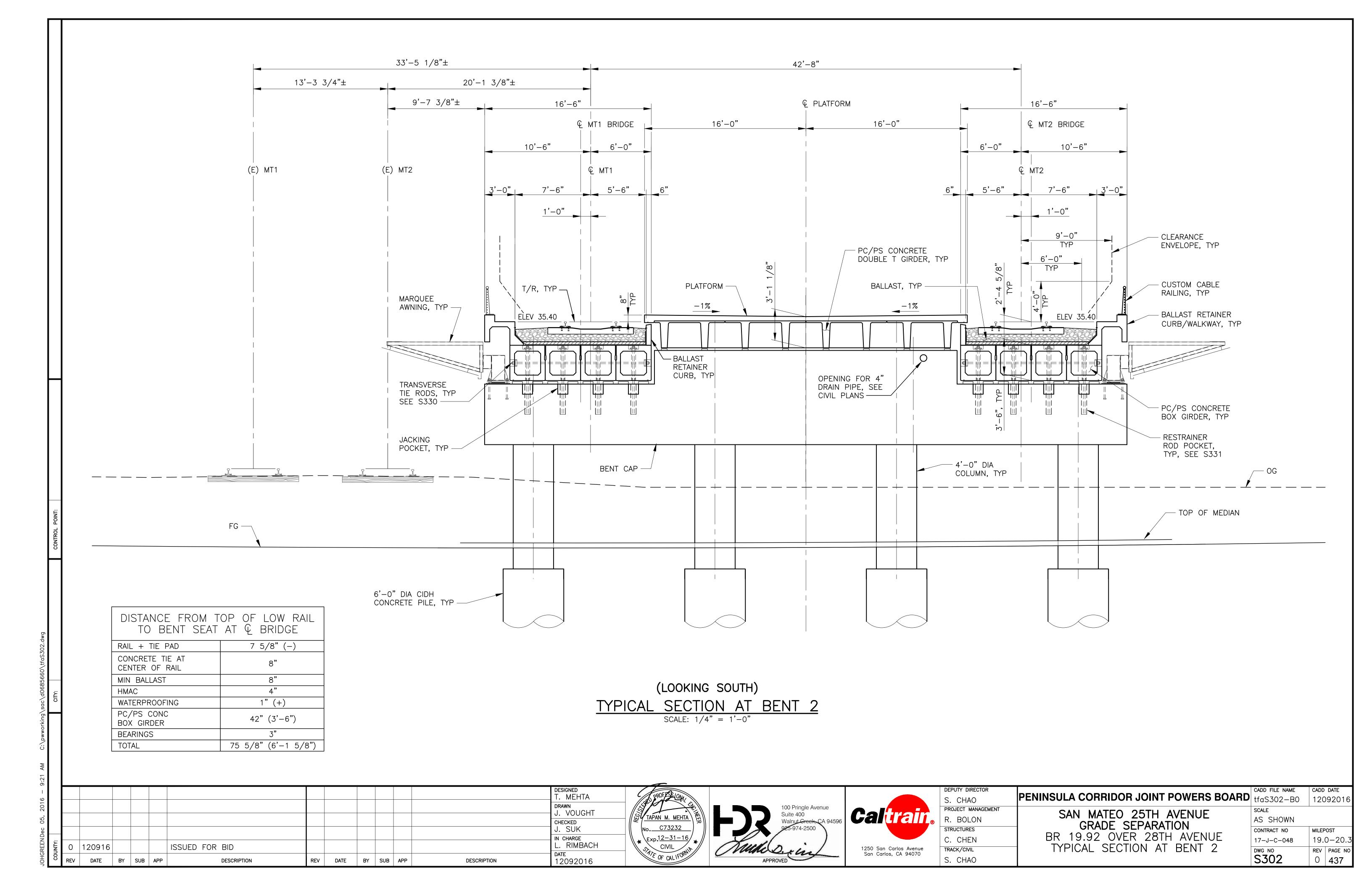


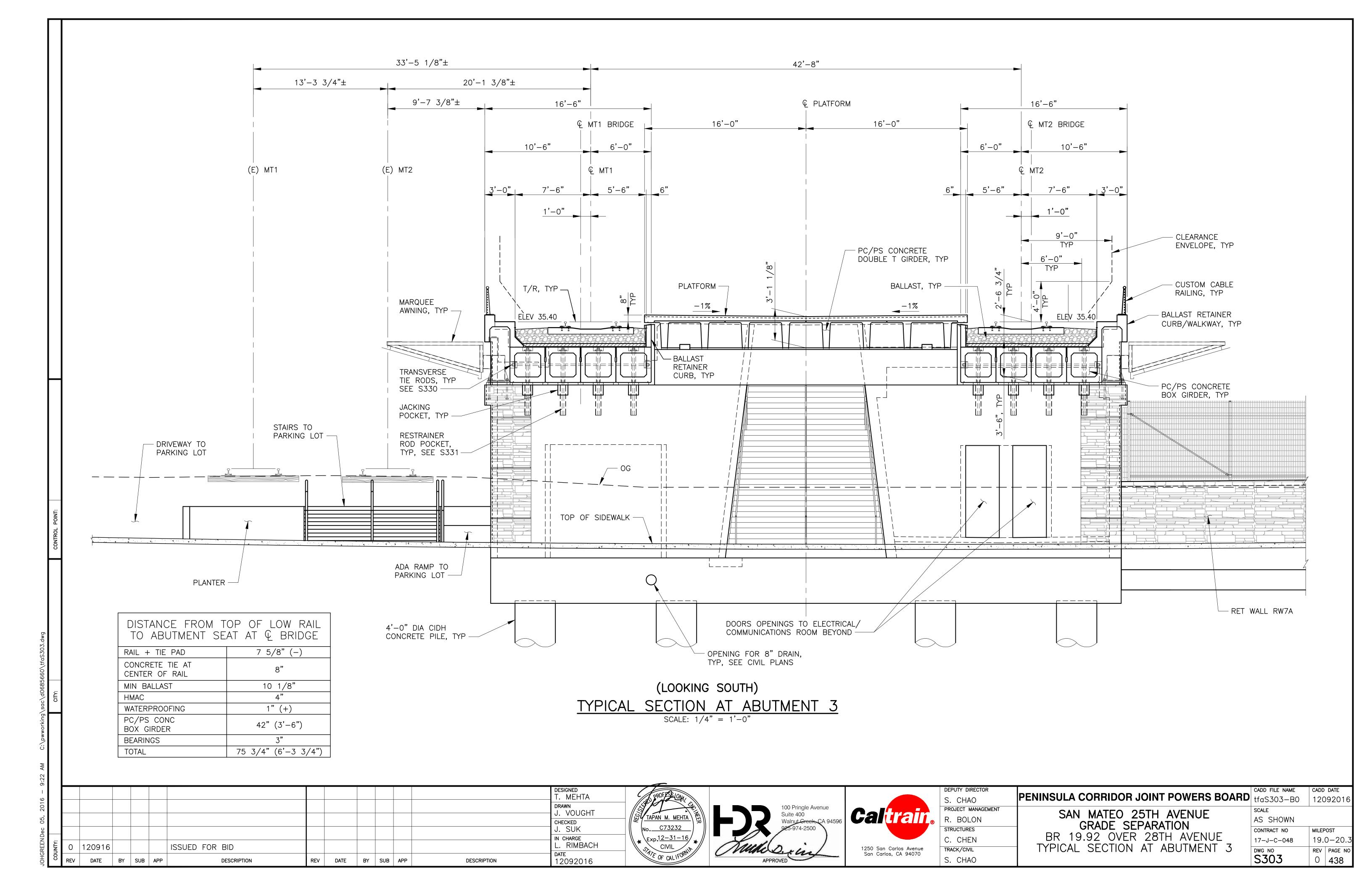
EXHIBIT B

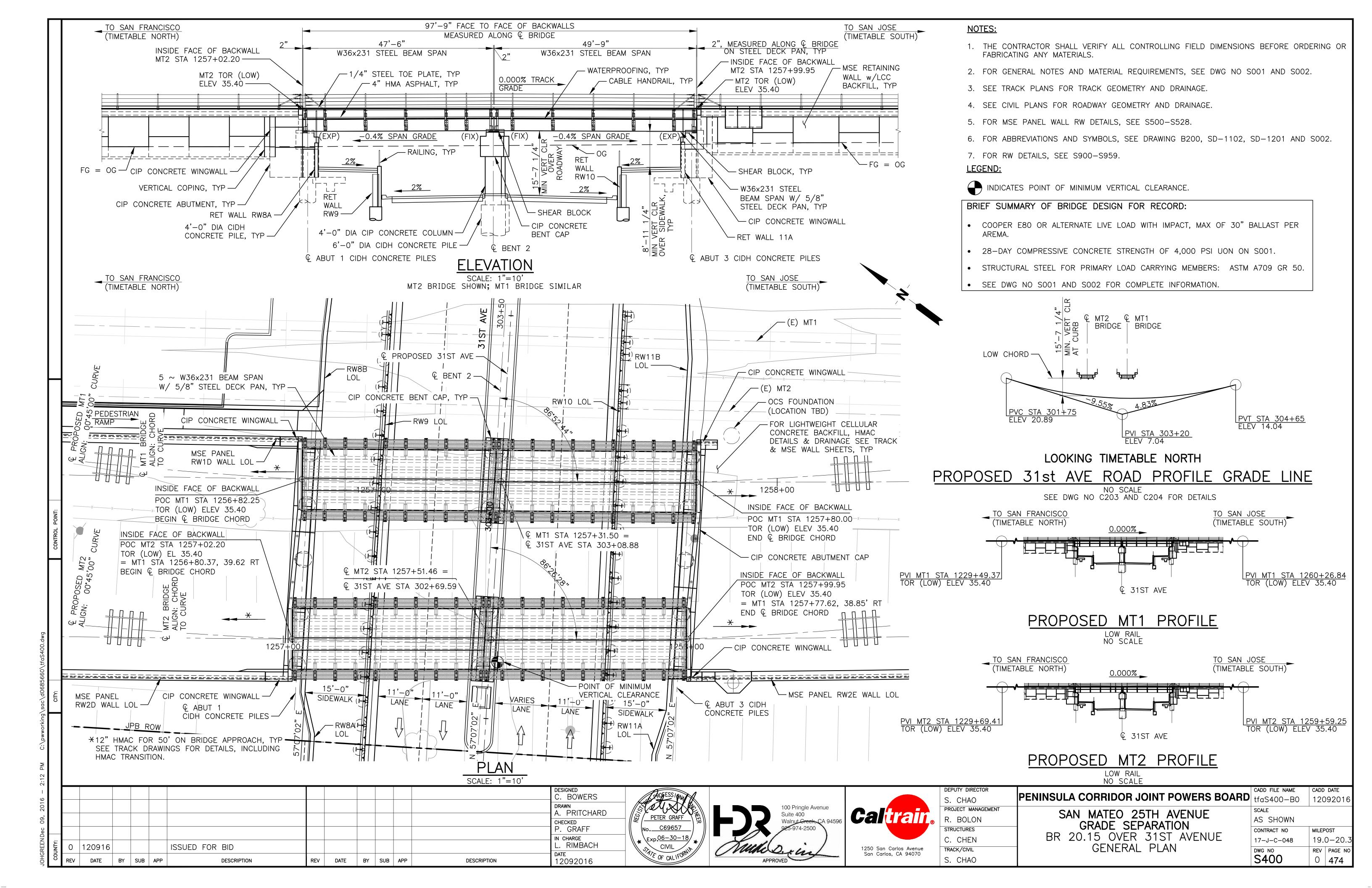
General Plans

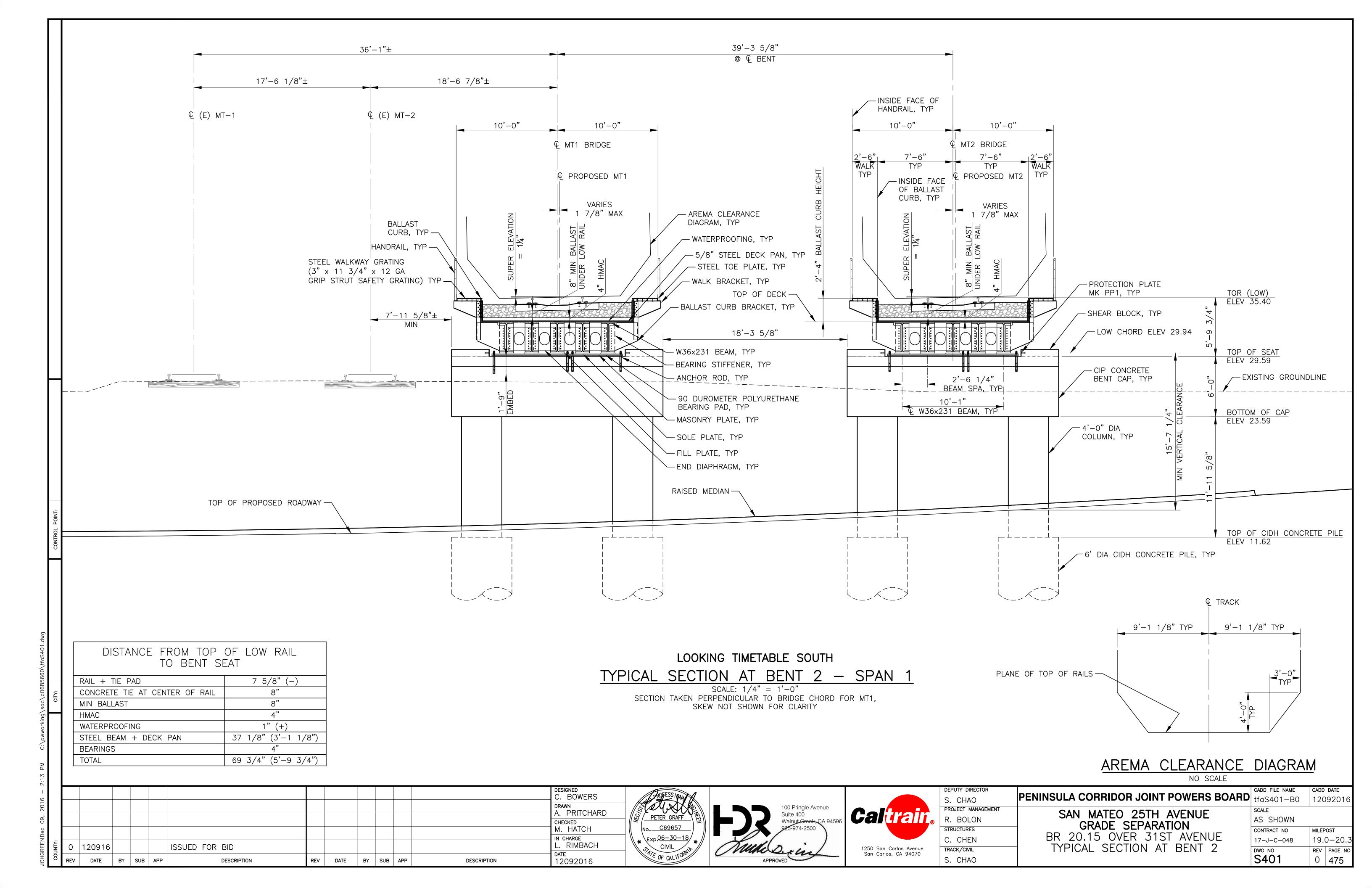


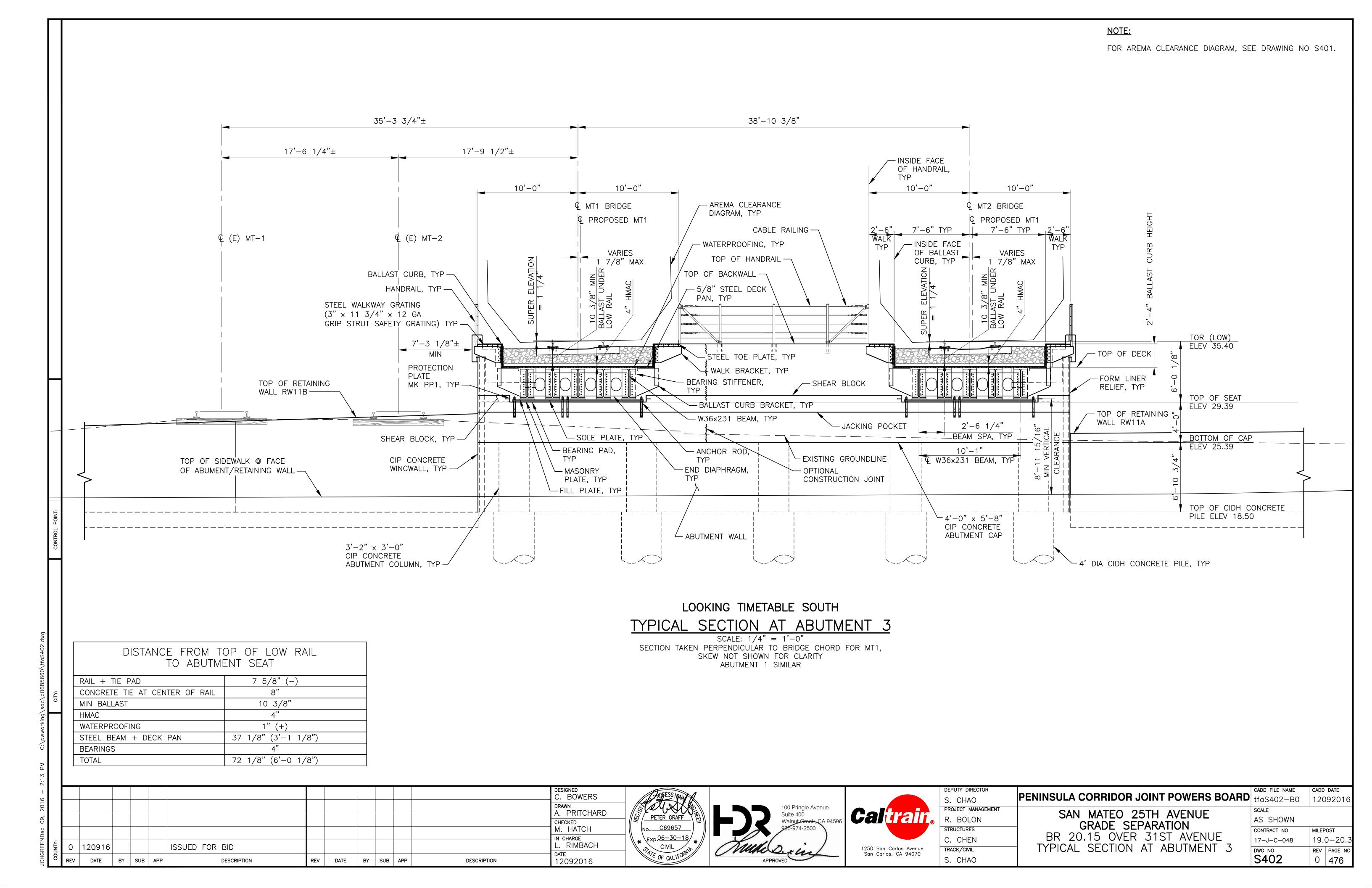


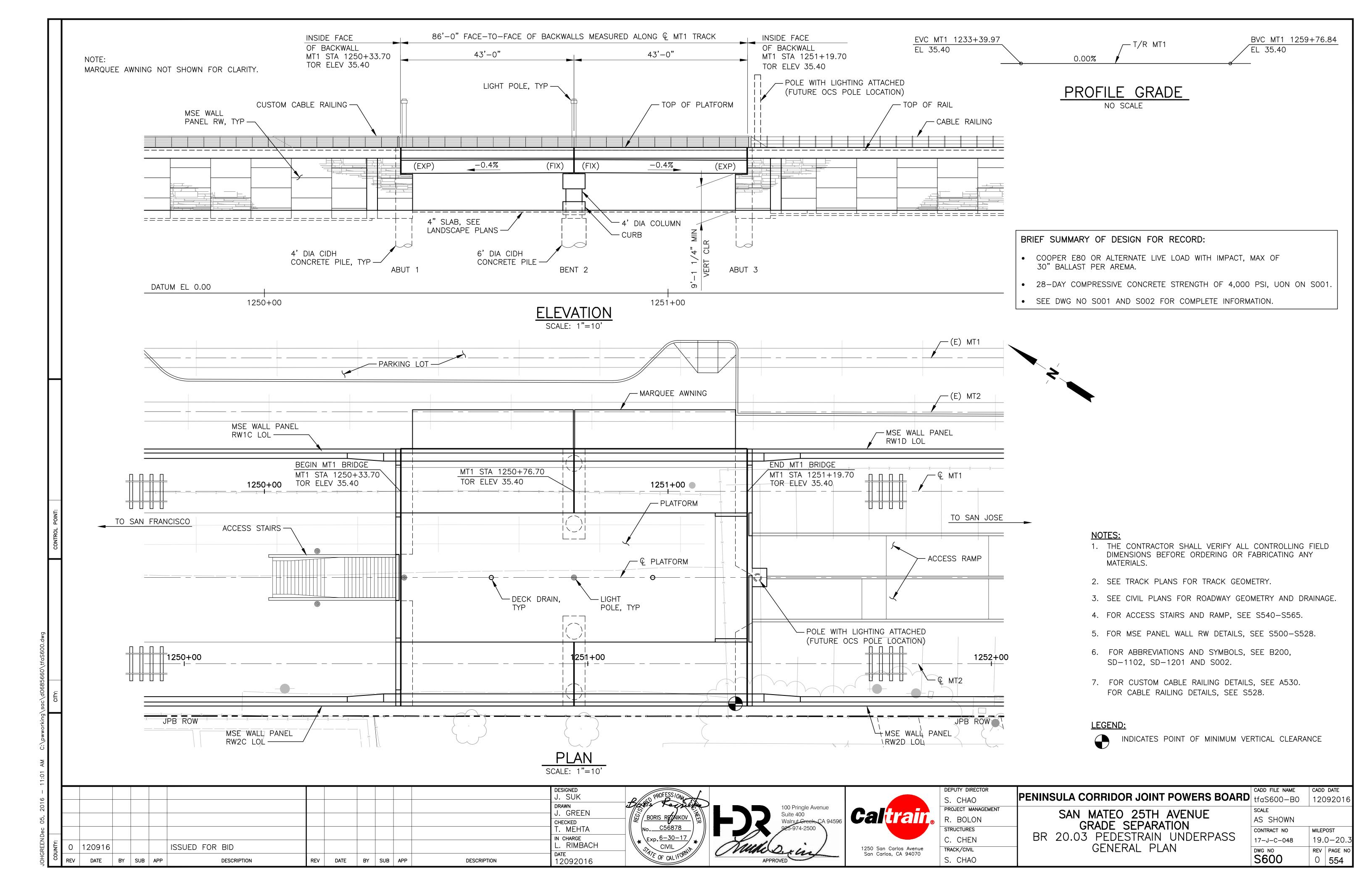


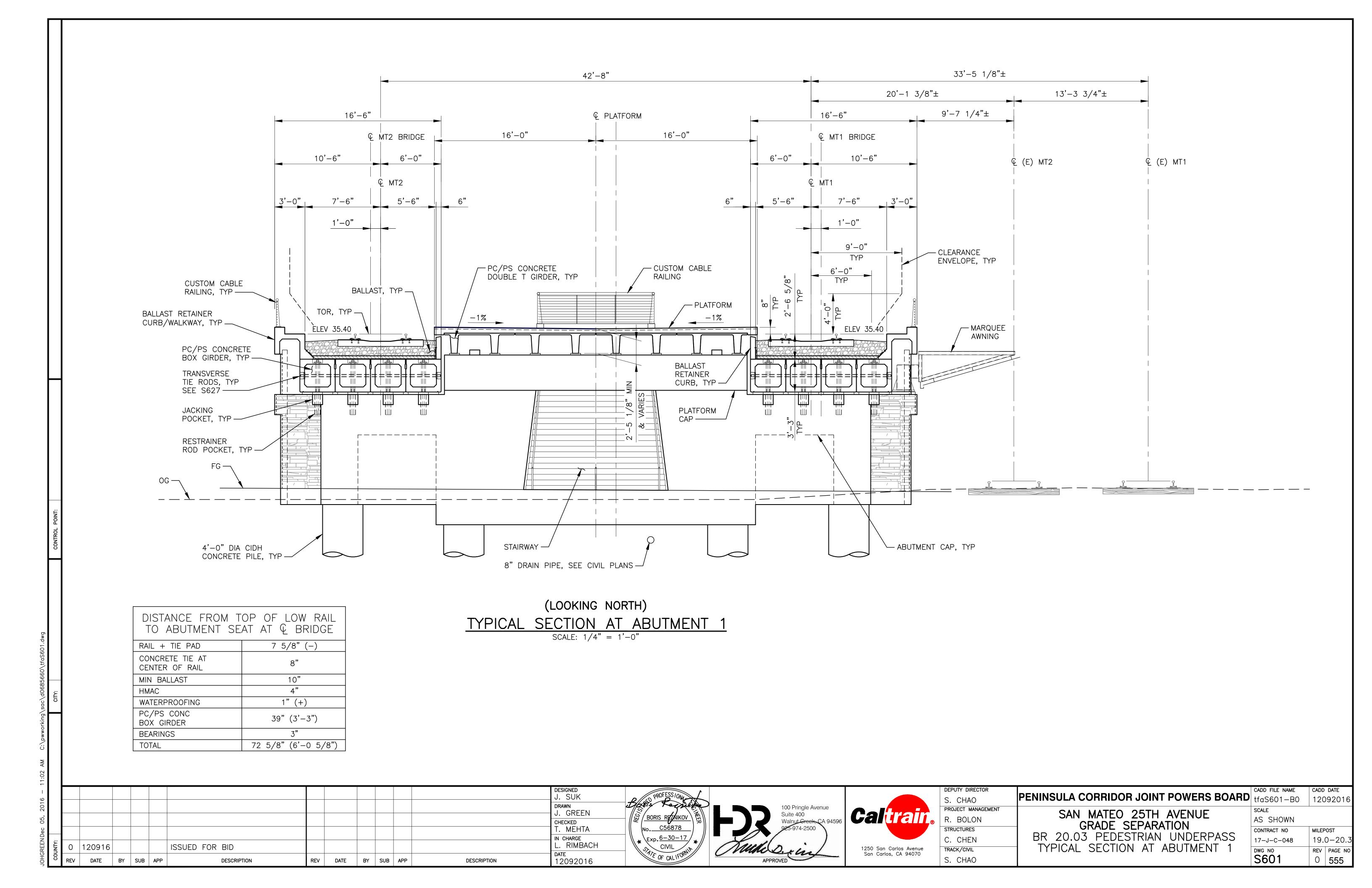


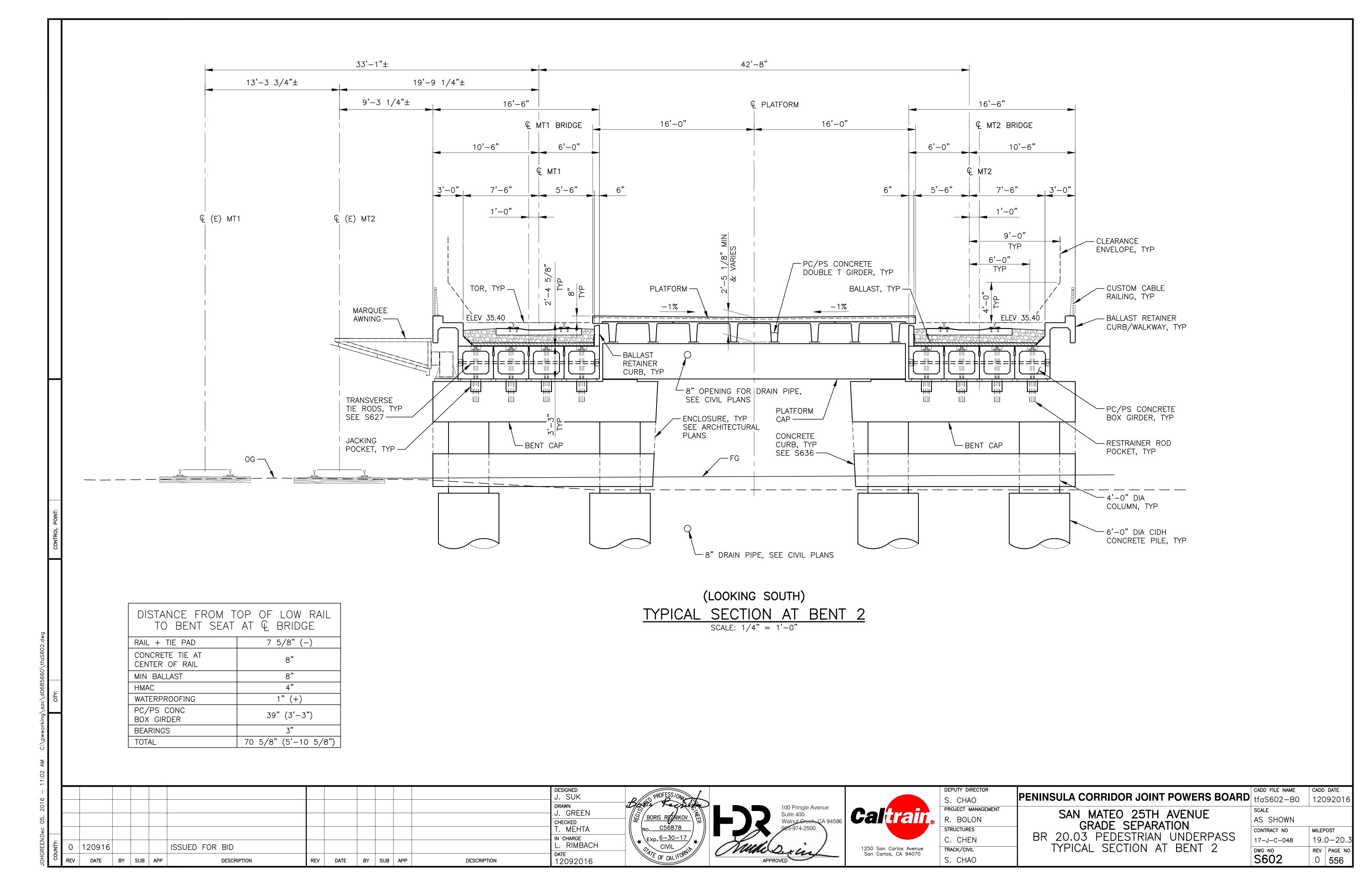












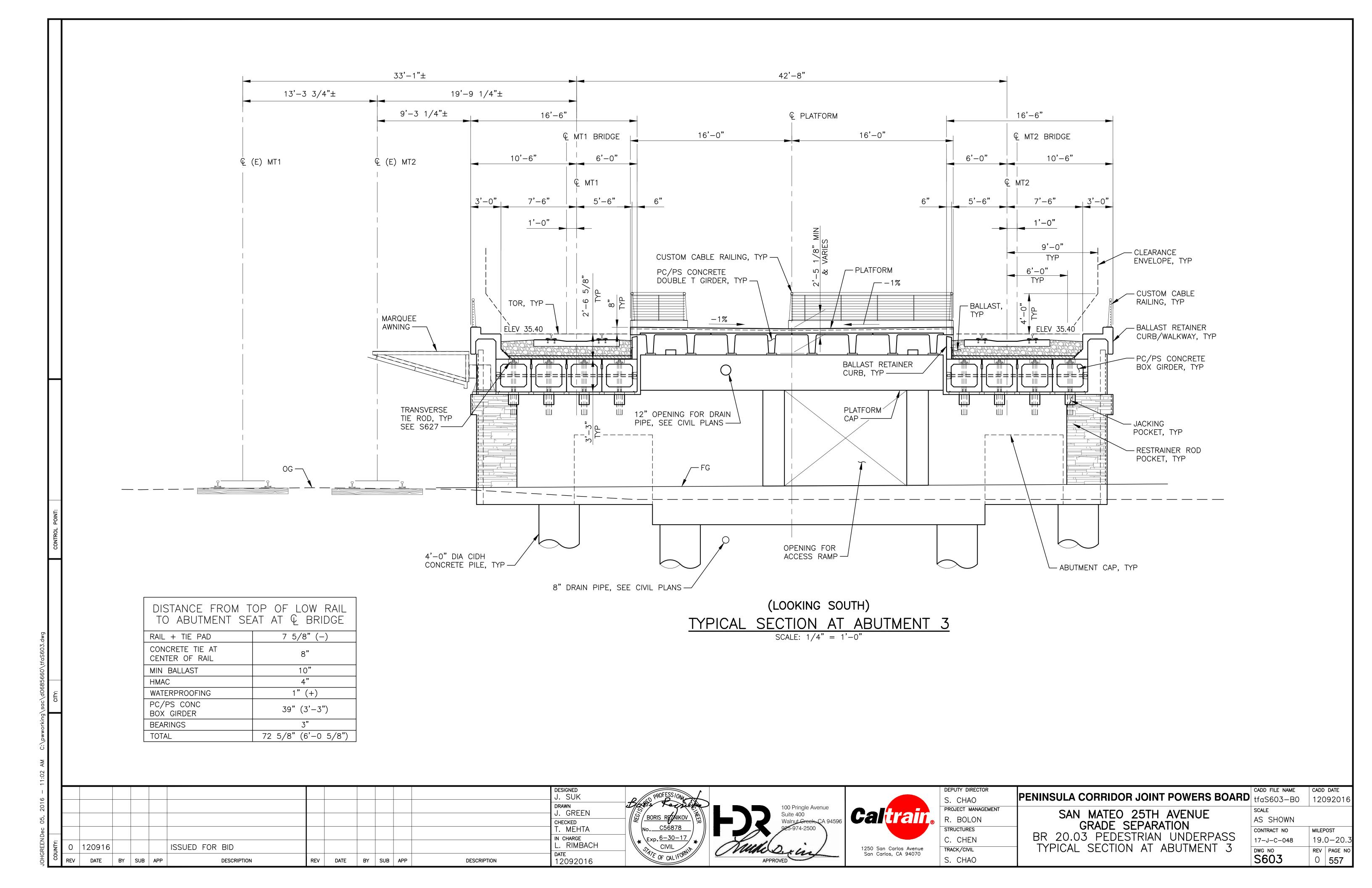


EXHIBIT C

Legal Description

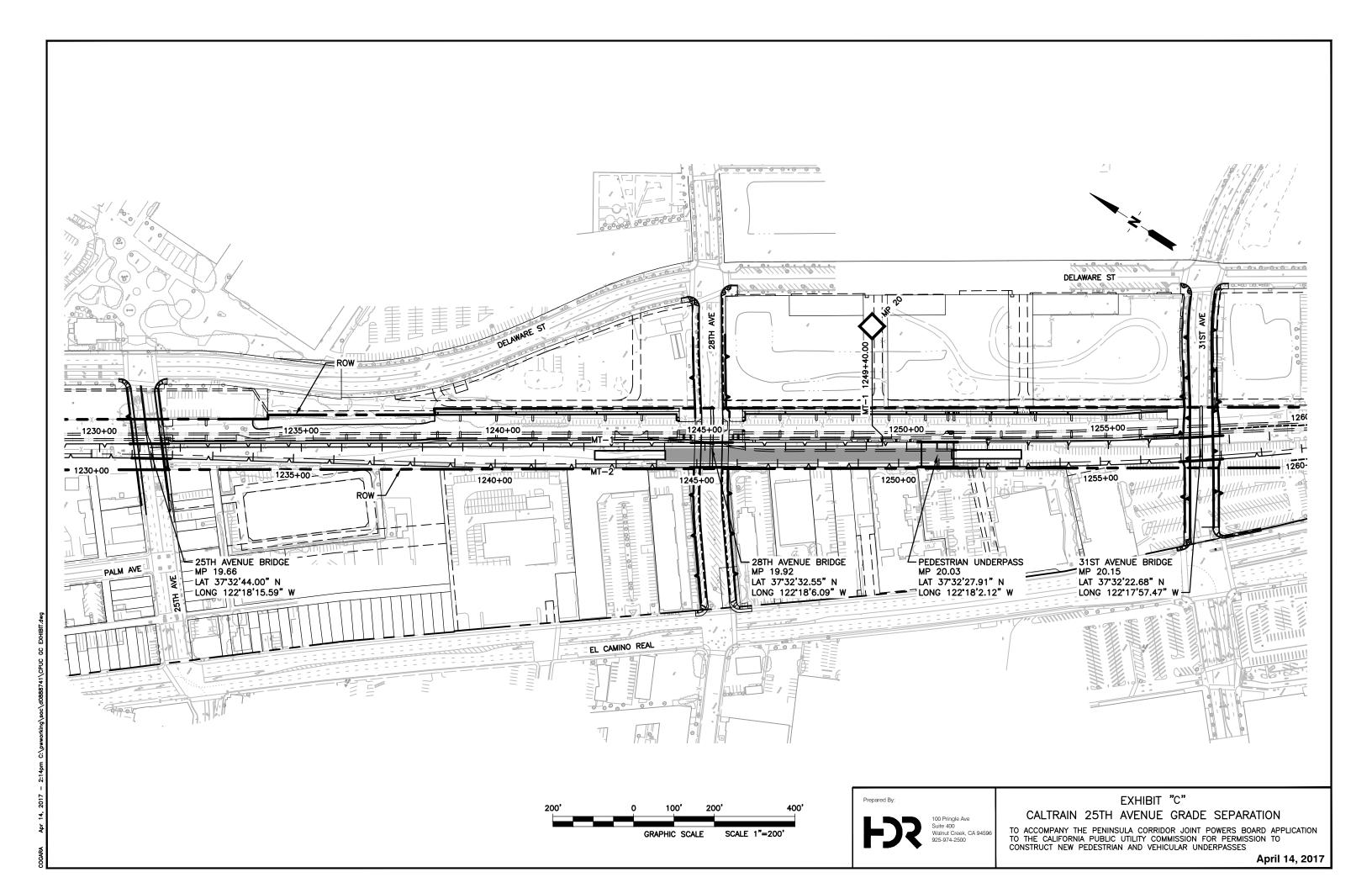


EXHIBIT D

Memo regarding CEQA exemption



Memorandum

To:

San Mateo 25th Avenue Grade Separation- Project CEQA File

From:

Hilda Lafebre, Capital Projects & Environmental Planning

CC:

Leo Tidd, The Louis Berger Group - Environmental Consultant

Date:

March 14, 2016

Re:

San Mateo 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project CEQA Exemption

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the CEQA statutory exemptions for the San Mateo 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project.

Project Description

The San Mateo 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project (the proposed project) is located along the Caltrain corridor between the existing Caltrain undercrossing of State Highway 92 to the north and the existing Caltrain Bridge over Hillsdale Boulevard to the south, a distance of approximately 1.2 miles. The purpose of the proposed project is to: (1) improve public safety by eliminating an existing at-grade railroad crossing at 25th Avenue, (2) support transit-oriented development planned in this area of the City of San Mateo, and (3) upgrade the Hillsdale Station to prepare it for growing demand from new development in the area and address pedestrian access deficiencies of the existing station configuration.

This proposed project is intended to be built prior to the electrification of the Caltrain corridor, currently expected to be completed in 2020. Therefore, the proposed project has been designed to be compatible with future electrified service and infrastructure, but it does not include the actual construction of such infrastructure.

The proposed project consists of the reconstruction, realignment, and elevation of tracks within the project limits on embankment, retaining-wall and bridge viaduct to accomplish grade separation of the existing at-grade rail crossing at 25th Avenue, and the creation of new grade-separated crossings over extended 28th and 31st avenues, and over a new pedestrian undercrossing at 29½ Avenue, none of which presently have through-passage across the Caltrain tracks.

The proposed project also includes the relocation and reconfiguration of Caltrain's Hillsdale Station platform from south of 31st Avenue to north of 31st Avenue to 1) allow the grade-separated and re-aligned tracks to tie into the existing tracks at the existing Caltrain bridge over Hillsdale Boulevard, 2) eliminate the existing at-grade pedestrian crossing of active tracks associated with the existing two side-platform station configuration by changing it to a center platform configuration, and 3) allow pedestrian access, including ADA-compliant access, to the

newly constructed platform from street level at 28th Avenue and the new pedestrian way at 29½ Avenue.

With the implementation of the proposed project, there will be a net expansion of parking at the Hillsdale Station from 518 parking spaces to 638 parking spaces. The track realignment will remove 178 existing parking spaces on the west side of the Caltrain corridor at the station. Two new parking lots totaling 298 parking spaces will be built adjacent to the east side of the realigned tracks and within the right-of-way now occupied by tracks that will be removed for the project. The southern lot will be situated between 31st and 28th avenues, and the northern lot will extend north of 28th Avenue to the approximate midpoint between 28th and 25th avenues.

The project is undergoing an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy (NEPA), with FTA as the lead federal agency.

Statutory Exemptions from CEQA

The primary component of and driver for the proposed project, replacing the existing grade crossing at 25th Ave. with a grade separation, is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 21080.13 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA Guidelines Article 18 § 15282), which provides exemption for any railroad grade separation project which eliminates an existing grade crossing or which reconstructs an existing grade separation. The grade separation of 25th Avenue necessitates shifting the railroad alignment to the west of the existing tracks in order to maintain service during construction. The westerly alignment shift in turn requires relocating the station because the existing station platform would conflict with the shift in the track. As integral elements of the 25th Avenue grade separation, the alignment shift and station relocation are exempt from CEQA.

The remaining project components (including the extension of 28th and 31st Avenue and station parking improvements) are covered by a broader statutory exemption for projects that increase passenger service on existing rail lines, including transit station and parking modernization (CEQA Guidelines Article 18 § 15275). The proposed project does not increase frequency of passenger service, but is supportive of independent initiatives that do involve increased service, including the Caltrain Electrification program. The Hillsdale Station relocation and upgrades (such as the central platform) would support increased ridership, as would the proximity of the new station location (between 28th and 31st Ave.) to the center of the Bay Meadows transit-oriented development. The scope of station improvements to the Hillsdale Station is consistent with the concept of "modernization." The grade separations of 28th and 31st Ave. are essential to the station modernization by accommodating bicycle/pedestrian movements under the tracks for station access. The new grade separations and extension of 28th and 31st Ave. are also part of the station access needs for efficient auto and bus traffic flow in the general area.

Conclusion

The proposed project is exempt from CEQA based on the statutory exemption for grade separations (CEQA Guidelines Article 18 § 15282) and the statutory exemption for projects that support increased transit service/ridership (CEQA Guidelines Article 18 § 15275). Therefore, no further review under CEQA is required.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Dear Rail Crossing Applicant:

Subject: SB 960 Supplement to Application for Railroad Crossings

Applications filed after January 1, 1998, are required to include the following information:

- 1. Category
- 2. Need for hearing
- 3. Issues
- 4. Schedule

A well-prepared application should contain a clear and concise summary of the issues that the Commission is being asked to resolve. If your application already contains a summary of the issues to be considered by the Commission, simply indicate on the form the section or page of your application where the issues are summarized. If your application does not contain this information, please summarize the issues on the attached form or on a separate page.

Attachments

Scoping Memo Information for Applications

| A. Category (Check the category that is most appropriate) |
|--|
| Adjudicatory - "Adjudicatory" proceedings are: (1) enforcement investigations into possible violations of any provision of statutory law or order or rule of the Commission; and (2) complaints against regulated entities, including those complaints that challenge the accuracy of a bill, but excluding those complaints that challenge the reasonableness of rates or charges, past, present, or future, such as formal rough crossing complaints (maximum 12 month process if hearings are required). |
| Ratesetting - "Ratesetting" proceedings are proceedings in which the Commission sets or investigates rates for a specifically named utility (or utilities), or establishes a mechanism that in turn sets the rates for a specifically named utility (or utilities). "Ratesetting" proceedings include complaints that challenge the reasonableness of rates or charges, past, present, or future. Other proceedings may also be categorized as ratesetting when they do not clearly fit into one category, such as railroad crossing applications (maximum 18 month process if hearings are required). |
| Quasi-legislative - "Quasi-legislative" proceedings are proceedings that establish policy or rules (including generic ratemaking policy or rules) affecting a class of regulated entities, including those proceedings in which the Commission investigates rates or practices for an entire regulated industry or class of entities within the industry. |
| B. Are hearings necessary? |
| Are public witness hearings necessary? |
| □ Yes X No |
| Public witness hearings are set up for the purpose of getting input from the general public and any entity that will not be a party to the proceeding. Such input usually |

involves presenting written or oral statements to the presiding officer, not sworn

testimony. Public witness statements are not subject to cross-examination.

C. Issues - List here the specific issues that need to be addressed in the proceeding.

All issues have been worked out before the filing of this application. No objections or issues need to be worked out that the applicant is aware of.

D. Schedule (Even if you checked "No" in B above) Should the Commission decide to hold hearings, indicate here the proposed schedule for completing the proceeding within 12 months (if categorized as adjudicatory) or 18 months (if categorized as ratesetting or quasi-legislative).

The schedule should include proposed dates for the following events as needed:

6 months Prehearing conference

9 months Hearings

12 months Briefs due

13 months Submission

15 months Proposed decision (90 days after submission)

18 months Final decision (60 days after proposed decision is mailed)