

# Agenda Item B.2 CONCEPTUAL/PRELIMINARY/FINAL REVIEW Meeting Date: October 28, 2025

TO: Goleta Design Review Board

**SUBMITTED BY:** Travis Lee, Associate Planner

**SUBJECT:** 215 Pacific Oaks Road (APN 073-230-050) Pacific Oaks Apartments

Overall Sign Plan and California Environmental Quality Act Notice of

Exemption Case Nos. 25-0004-OSP, 25-0037-DRB

#### DRB ACTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Adopt DRB and California Environmental Act Findings provided as Attachment A;

- Adopt CEQA Categorical Exemption Section 15311(a) as provided in Attachment B: and
- 3. Conduct Conceptual, Preliminary, and Final review and approve or approve with conditions.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a request for a *Conceptual, Preliminary, and Final Review* for the following signage on an 8.22-acre site with multiple entrances and buildings located in the Planned Residential zone district:

- Two (2) 34.5 square foot illuminated monument signs
- Four (4) non-illuminated directional signs (4 sf)
- One (1) 5 square foot non-illuminated Leasing Center sign
- One (1) 12 square foot non-illuminated directory map

The project was filed by agent Sarah Marshall, SEPPS, for The Towbes Group, property owner.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The scope of this proposal is to review an Overall Sign Plan for the Pacific Oaks Apartments complex. The focus of the Design Review Board is to evaluate the signs as shown in the plans. The DRB has review authority for this project and may grant Approval if the project meets the Required Findings in Goleta Municipal Code §17.58.080. If the DRB cannot make the findings for the project, then the project must be redesigned.

Section 17.40.080(F)2 states: Wall signs may be located up to, but must not exceed, the height of the wall to which they are attached. Since the proposed leasing center wall sign does not exceed the height of the wall to which it is attached, the sign complies with this provision of Title 17.

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Additionally, the proposed freestanding monument signs comply with the requirements of Goleta Municipal Code Section 17.40.080.C (Freestanding Signs). This is because:

- the subject parcel has greater than 125' of continuous street frontage;
- > the proposed monument signs are less than 6' tall;
- ➤ the placement of the monument signs are located outside of the Vision Clearance triangle in accordance with 17.24.210.A.1;
- the proposed monument signs are at least 5' from the edge of the public right-of-way in accordance with 17.40.080.C.1; and
- ➤ additional landscaping is not required since a landscaping plan was approved under 69-M-125 and 72-M-071 and is still applicable.

#### Policy VH 4.13 Signage of the General Plan states:

Signs shall maintain and enhance the city's appearance through design, character, location, number, type, quality of materials, size, height, and illumination. The following standards shall apply:

- a. Signs shall minimize possible adverse effects on nearby public and private property, including streets, roads, and highways.
- b. Signs shall be integrated into the site and structural design, shall be compatible with their surroundings, and shall clearly inform pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists of business names.
- c. Signs shall not detract from views or the architectural quality of buildings, structures, and/or the streetscape. Protrusion of signs and/or sign structures into the skyline should be minimized to avoid a cluttered appearance.
- d. Signs shall be of appropriate and high-quality style, color, materials, size, height, and illumination.
- e. Lighting is considered an integral part of sign design and shall be controlled to prevent glare and spillage onto adjacent areas.
- f. Internally illuminated cabinet or can signs shall be prohibited.
- g. Billboards and other off-premises advertising signs shall be prohibited.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (NOE):**

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, §§ 15000, et seq.: State CEQA Guidelines), and the City's Environmental Review Guidelines, the project has been found to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15311(a) of the CEQA Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption is proposed.

The City of Goleta is acting as the Lead Agency for this project. The project has been found to be exempt from CEQA Guidelines per Section 15311(a) as the site is allowed signage for the apartment complex.

Moreover, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the project given the nature of the proposal which is new signage. The exception set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(a),

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Location. Class 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located and the project is not located in or have an impact on an environmental resource of critical concern that is designated, precisely mapped, or officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. Section 15300.2(b)'s exception, relating to cumulative impacts, does not apply as there are no other successive projects of the same type in the same place that could result in significant cumulative impacts. Section 15300.2(c)'s exception does not apply because there are no "unusual circumstances" that apply to the project; signage is not considered unusual. Section 15300.2(d)'s exception does not apply because the project is not located near any scenic highways. Section 15300.2(e)'s exception does not apply because the project site and off-site improvement locations do not contain hazardous waste and are not on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Finally, Section 15300.2(f)'s exception does not apply because the project has no potential of causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Additionally, the project's site does not contain any identified significant cultural resources, and no grading is proposed.

For these reasons, the project has been found exempt from CEQA and the adoption of a NOE is recommended for consideration as noted above.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND ASSOCIATED LAND USE ACTION:**

If the DRB grants the applicant's request, the next steps include: (1) a 10-day (DRB) appeal period; (2) ministerial issuance of a Zoning Clearance following (if no appeal if submitted); and (3) Building Permits as needed.

If the DRB action is appealed and the appeal is upheld, DRB's Final Review action will be rescinded and the DRB process will start over.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- A Findings for Approval
- B Notice of Exemption
- C Project Plans

## **ATTACHMENT A**

## **FINDINGS**

# Attachment A Design Review Findings for Pacific Oaks Apartments Overall Sign Plan Case Nos. 25-0037-DRB and 25-0004-OSP

### **DESIGN REVIEW FINDINGS (GMC SECTION 17.58.080)**

1. The development will be compatible with the neighborhood, and its size, bulk and scale will be appropriate to the site and the neighborhood.

Aside from the proposed signs, no structural development is proposed. The proposed signage is compatible and in harmony with the site and neighborhood and will adequately identify the use occurring on the project. The signage is appropriate in size, bulk and scale for the site and the use.

 Site layout, orientation, and location of structures, including any signage and circulation, are in an appropriate and harmonious relationship to one another and the property.

The proposed signage and locations are appropriate for a residential apartment complex and comply with the sign requirements of Title 17, as depicted in the Overall Sign Plan (OSP). The proposed locations of the monument signs are near Hollister Ave and Pacific Oaks Road, and the directional signs are located near the driveway entrances. Therefore, the layout, orientation, and location of structures and the property are in an appropriate and harmonious relationship with the proposed signage.

3. The development demonstrates a harmonious relationship with existing adjoining development, avoiding both excessive variety as well as monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted.

While the signs vary in size, the signs maintain the same theme and color palette while maintaining the harmonious relationship with the building architecture as evidenced by their design and consistency with applicable development standards of Title 17.

4. There is harmony of material, color, and composition on all sides of structures.

The project is limited to the installation of new signage reflective for an existing apartment complex. This signage is well thought out in terms of material, color, and composition and compliments the Pacific Oaks apartments by complimenting the colors using neutral earth tones.

5. Any outdoor mechanical or electrical equipment is well integrated in the total design and is screened from public view to the maximum extent practicable.

The new freestanding monument signs have electrical equipment integrated in the total design and hidden to the maximum extent practicable. All other proposed signs are non-illuminated.

6. The site grading is minimized, and the finished topography will be appropriate for the site.

No grading is proposed as part of this project.

7. Adequate landscaping is provided in proportion to the project and the site with due regard to preservation of specimen and protected trees, and existing native vegetation.

No new landscaping is proposed as part of the proposed signs and no specimen, protected trees, or existing native vegetation will be removed as part of the project.

8. The selection of plant materials is appropriate to the project and its environment, and adequate provisions have been made for long-term maintenance of the plant materials.

No landscaping is proposed as part of this project.

9. All exterior lighting, including for signage, is well designed, appropriate in size and location, and dark-sky compliant.

The signs that are illuminated are internally illuminated and will be dark-sky compliant.

10. The project architecture will respect the privacy of neighbors, is considerate of private views, and is protective of solar access off site.

The proposed signage will not impede privacy of neighbors, impact existing views, and will not result in obstruction of solar access to other adjacent properties given their placement and orientation.

11. The proposed development is consistent with any additional design standards as expressly adopted by the City Council. (Ord. 20-03 § 6).

There are no additional design standards adopted for signage or for this zoning district. The proposed wall signs are consistent with applicable policies of the City of Goleta General Plan, for example VH Policy 4.13.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDING

12. The development or project is within the project description of a proposed or adopted California Environmental Quality Act document (i.e., Environmental

Impact Report, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Negative Declaration) or is statutorily or categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act.

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, §§ 15000, et seq.: State CEQA Guidelines), and the City's Environmental Review Guidelines, the project has been found to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15311(a) of the CEQA Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption is proposed.

The City of Goleta is acting as the Lead Agency for this project. The project has been found to be exempt from CEQA Guidelines per Section 15311(a) because the applicant proposes to permit signage.

Moreover, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the project given the nature of the proposal which is new signage for proposed buildings. The exception set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(a), Location. Class 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located and the project is not located in or have an impact on an environmental resource of critical concern that is designated, precisely mapped, or officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. Section 15300.2(b)'s exception, relating to cumulative impacts, does not apply as there are no other successive projects of the same type in the same place that could result in significant cumulative impacts. Section 15300.2(c)'s exception does not apply because there are no "unusual circumstances" that apply to the project; signage is not considered unusual. Section 15300.2(d)'s exception does not apply because the project is not located near any scenic highways. Section 15300.2(e)'s exception does not apply because the project site and off-site improvement locations do not contain hazardous waste and are not on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Finally, Section 15300.2(f)'s exception does not apply because the project has no potential of causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Additionally, the project's site does not contain any identified significant cultural resources, and no grading is proposed.

For these reasons, the project has been found exempt from CEQA and the adoption of a NOE is recommended for consideration as noted above.

## ATTACHMENT B

## **CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (NOE)

	Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth St. Rm. 212 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Santa Barbara 105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407 Santa Barbara, CA 93101	From:	City of Goleta 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B Goleta, CA 93117
Subject	t: Filing of Notice of Exemption		
	<b>Title:</b> Oaks Apartments Signage o. 25-0004-OSP, 25-0037-DRB		
Project Applicant: Sarah Marshall of SEPPS Inc On behalf of The Towbes Group, property owner			
Project Location (Address and APN): 215 Pacific Oaks Road Goleta, CA 93117 County of Santa Barbara APN: 073-230-050			
<ul> <li>Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:</li> <li>The request is for signage as follows:</li> <li>Two (2) 34.5 square foot illuminated monument signs</li> <li>Four (4) non-illuminated directional signs (4 sf)</li> <li>One (1) 5 square foot non-illuminated Leasing Center sign</li> <li>One (1) 12 square foot non-illuminated directory map</li> </ul>			
	rpose of the project is to provide identification ary of the project is the property owner.	ation fo	r the apartment complex. The
	of Public Agency Approving the Project: Review Board of the City of Goleta		
	of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Professional of SEPPS Inc., on behalf of The To	-	roup, Property Owner
	t <b>Status:</b> <i>(check one)</i> Ministerial (Sec. 15268) Declared Emergency (Sec. 15269 (a)) Emergency Project (Sec. 15269 (b) (c)) Categorical Exemption: § 15311 (a) (On-pro	emise s	igns)

#### **NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (NOE)**

#### Reason(s) why the project is exempt:

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (14 Cal. Code of Regulations, §§ 15000, et seq.: State CEQA Guidelines), and the City's Environmental Review Guidelines, the project has been found to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15311(a) of the CEQA Guidelines and a Notice of Exemption is proposed.

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For these reasons, the project has been found exempt from CEQA and the adoption of a NOE is recommended for consideration as noted above.

### City of Goleta Contact Person, Telephone Number, and Email:

Travis Lee, Associate Planner 805-562-5528 tlee@cityofgoleta.gov

Signature	Title	Date

#### If filed by the applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (NOE)

	□Yes	□No	
Date r	eceived for filing at OF	PR:	
Note:	•	on 21083 and 211110, Public Resources Code	

## **ATTACHMENT C**

## **PROJECT PLANS**



JOB NAME: GD2025 - THE TOWBES GROUP - PACIFIC OAKS - FOR SUBMITAL

SALES REP: TR

DATE: 07/14/2025

SCALE: N/A

DESIGNER: BG

REVISION: NO. DATE

A 07/14/2025 B 07/22/2025

PAGE 0-5 & 0-6 HAS BEEN REVISED

C 07/28/2025

ADDITIONAL CHANGES MADE

D 08/01/2025
FONT ADDED TO EACH PAGE

E 09/11/2025

SQ FT ADDED

**F** 09/18/2025 SQ FT REVISED

G 09/22/2025

SQ FT REVISED

**COLORS**: DIGITAL TO PRINT AS IS

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Approved by

Date

## **PACIFIC OAKS APARTMENTS**

7170 DAVENPORT RD, GOLETA, CA 93117

## **OSP SUBMITAL**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Freestanding Directories Leasing Center Awning Sign Directional Signs Monument Signs

## **SHEET INDEX**

0-0 COVER SHEET

0-1 SITE PLAN

0-2 DIRECTORY

0-3 LEASING CENTER SIGN

0-4 DIRECTIONAL SIGN

0-5 ILLUMINATED MONUMENT SIGN

0-6 ILLUMINATED MONUMNET SIGN CONTINUED

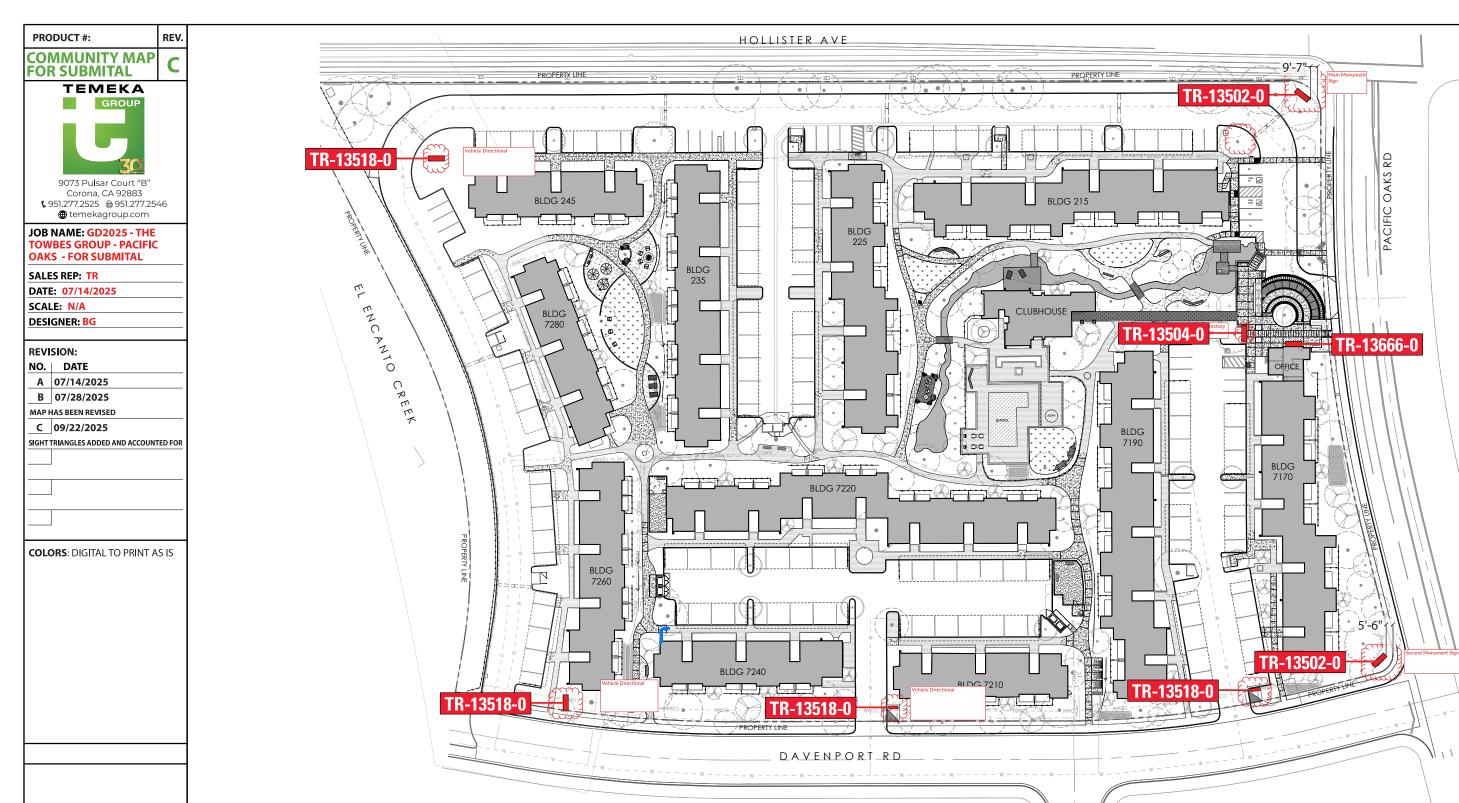
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12 Sq. Ft. QTY 1 5 Sq. Ft. QTY 1 4 Sq. Ft. QTY 4

34.5 Sq. Ft. QTY 2

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE = 102 Sq. Ft.

13



0 - 1

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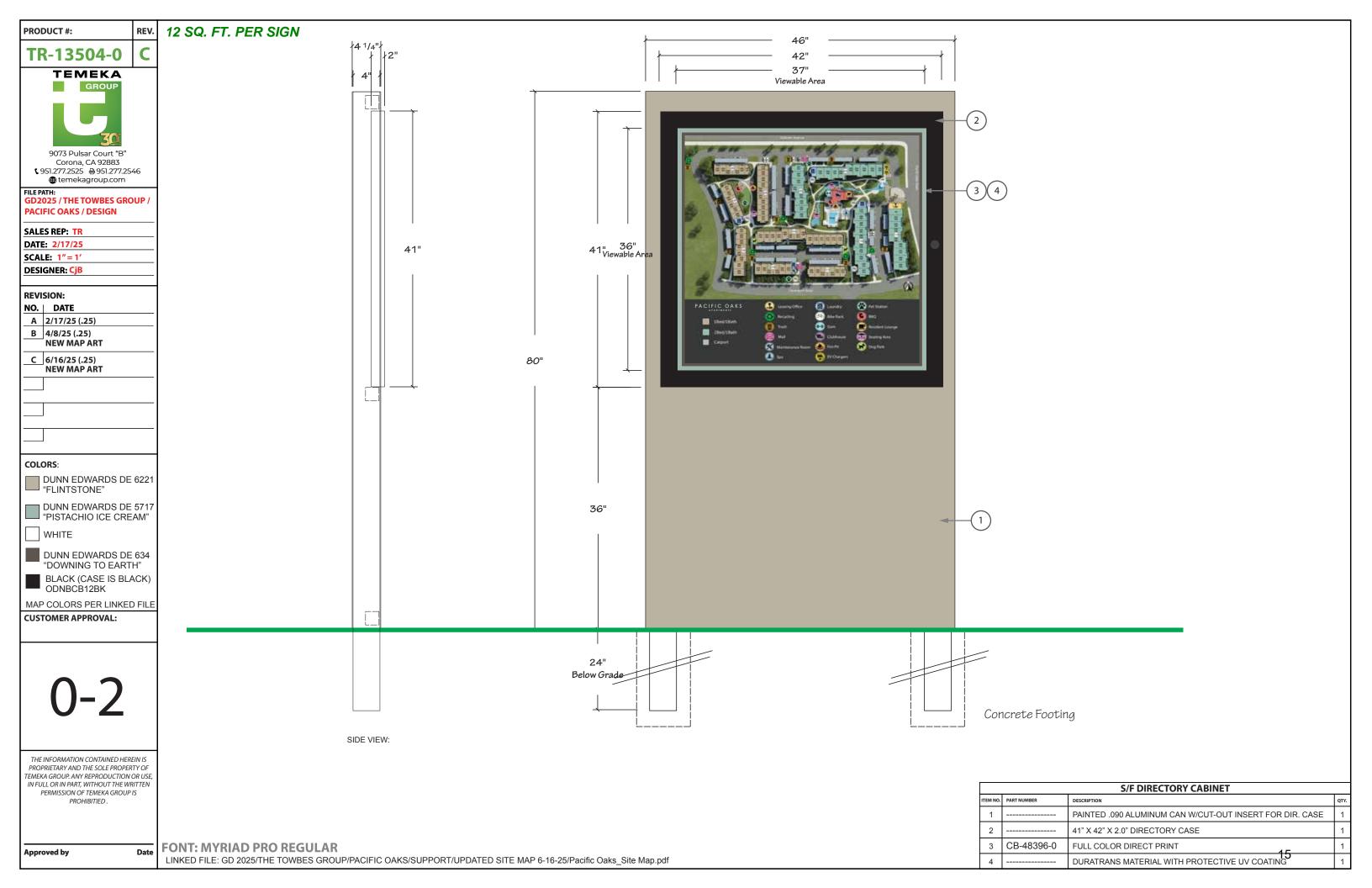
Date

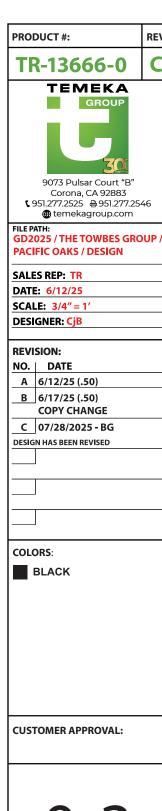
Approved by

TYPE DESCRIPTION QTY.

TR-13504-0 Directory Map 1
TR-13666-0 Leasing Center Sign 1
TR-13518-0 Directional Sign 4
TR-13502-0 Illuminated Monument Sign 2

14





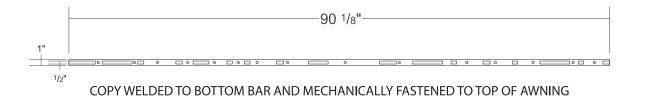
0 - 3

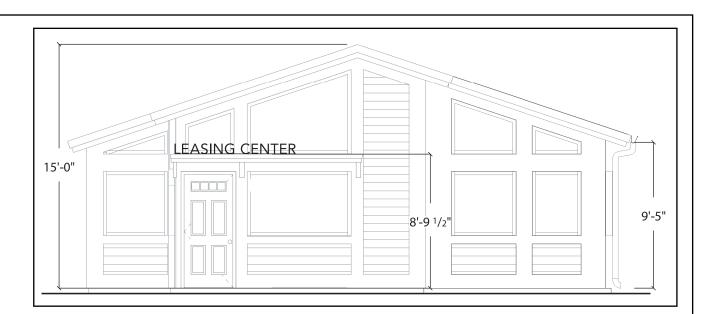
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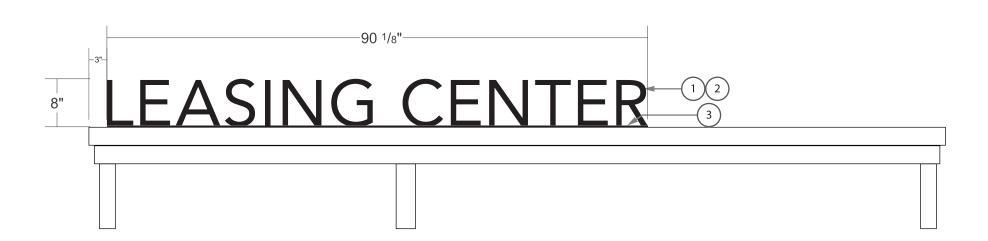
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Date

REV. 5 SQ. FT. PER SIGN



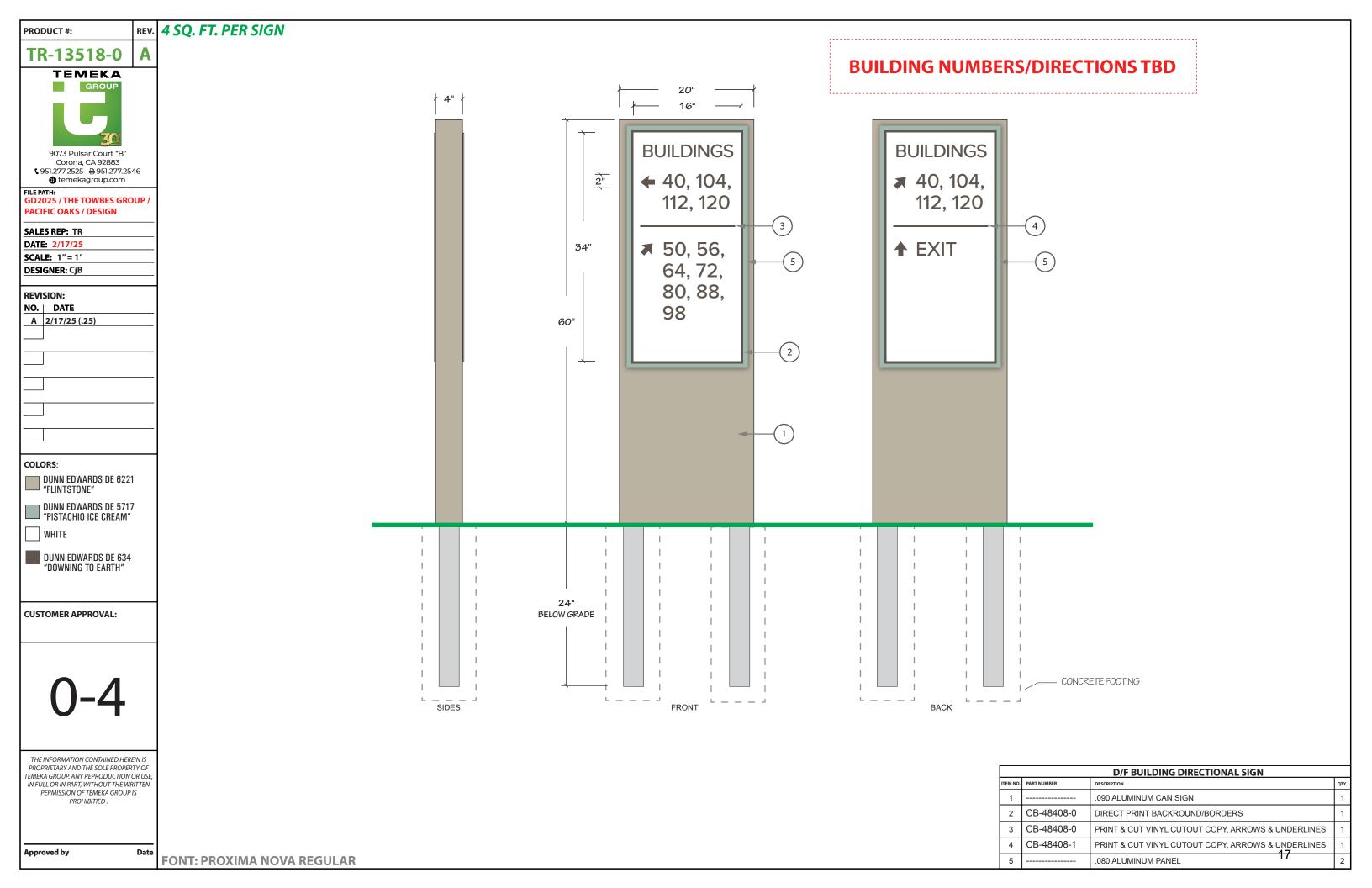






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2		1/2" THK. ALUMINUM, PAINTED BLACK WELDED TO BOTTOM BAR	1		
3		1/4" THK. ALUMINUM BAR - 1" WIDE, PAINTED BLACK	1		

**FONT: AVENIR ROMAN** 





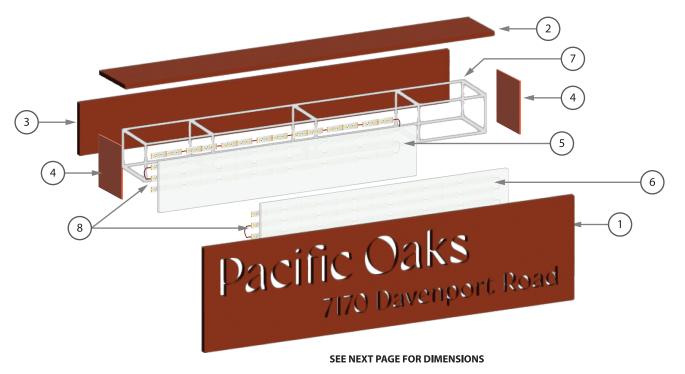
CUSTOMER APPROVAL:

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ANY REPRODUCTION OR USE, IN FULL
OR IN PART, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN
PERMISSION OF TEMEKA GROUP IS
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Approved by D

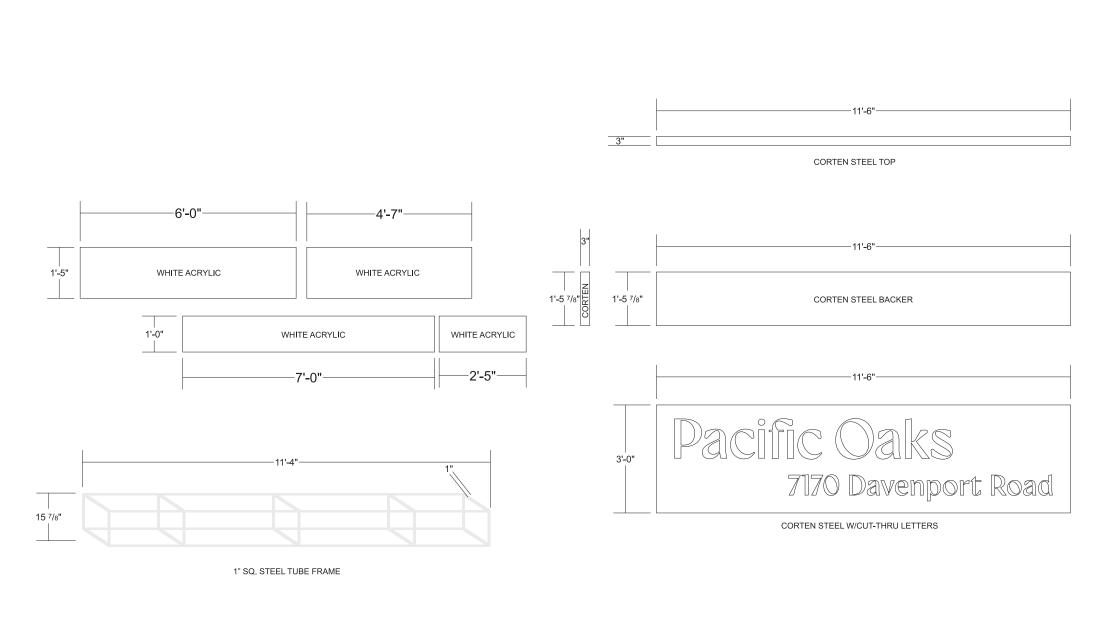
FONT: GYST VARIABLE ROMAN MEDIUM



S/F CORTEN STEEL MONUMENT WALL BOX   CONCRETE WALL BY OTHERS				
ITEM NO.	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY.	
1	CB-48778-0	1/4" CORTEN STEEL FACE W/CUT-THRU LETTERS	1	
2	CB-48778-1	1/4" CORTEN STEEL TOP PANEL	1	
3	CB-48778-2	1/4" CORTEN STEEL BACK PANEL	1	
4	CB-48778-3	1/4" CORTEN STEEL SIDE PANEL	2	
5	CB-48778-4	1/4" TRANSLUCENT WHITE ACRYLIC DIFFUSER	2	
6	CB-48778-5	1/4" TRANSLUCENT WHITE ACRYLIC DIFFUSER	2	
7		1" SQUARE STEEL TUBE FRAME	1	
8		LED INTERNAL LIGHTING 18		

REV.

D



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PAGE 2 OF 2