



May 2, 2011

Kristi Abrams  
Manager, Development Center  
City of Gilroy  
7351 Rosanna St.  
Gilroy, CA 95020

**RE: Status of Unincorporated Lands within the City of Gilroy's Urban Service Area (Unincorporated Islands)**

Dear Ms. Abrams:

In late October 2010, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County directed its staff to develop an inventory of the remaining unincorporated islands and to report back to the Commission on each city's plans regarding its islands.

**Four Unincorporated Islands Remain in the City of Gilroy**

The City of Gilroy has four unincorporated areas/islands within its Urban Service Area (USA). See table below and attached maps.

GILROY	
Island ID #	No. of
GR01	76.5
GR02	12.5
GR03	16.5
GR04	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>106.5</b>

## **Annex Islands that Qualify for the Streamlined Annexation Process**

GR04 is approximately 1 acre and consists of a single family home and is eligible for annexation through the streamlined annexation process. Islands such as this, are substantially developed and create inefficiencies / confusion in terms of the provision of emergency and other municipal services. Furthermore, residents of such islands are politically disenfranchised from the city government that surrounds them.

Annexation of such islands is a high priority for LAFCO and the County. In order to encourage these annexations, LAFCO continues to waive its fees for island annexations and the County continues to provide financial incentives including covering the costs for preparing Assessor and Surveyor reports and maps, paying the State Board of Equalization filing fees, and budgeting for road improvements in islands approved for annexation. As you may be aware, the law streamlining the annexation process for qualified unincorporated islands sunsets on January 1, 2014.

We encourage the City to take advantage of this process and the incentives currently being offered by both the County and LAFCO for such annexations. Please provide us with an update on the City's plans and time-line for annexing GR04.

## **Review Remaining Islands**

In terms of the City's three other remaining islands (GR01, GR02, and GR03), please review these islands that may or may not qualify for the streamlined annexation process, and determine whether the City intends to retain them within the City's USA boundary for eventual annexation.

For those islands that the City intends to retain in its USA boundary, please explain what the City's rationale is for retaining them in its USA and when the City plans to annex them.

For those areas not appropriate for eventual annexation, the City should consider whether to exclude these areas from its USA. Please contact LAFCO staff to discuss the USA amendment process and time-line for resolving these islands.

## **A Response from the City is Greatly Appreciated**

LAFCO staff is willing to work with and assist the City in resolving these island issues. We would appreciate knowing the City's annexation and/or urban service area amendment plans for these islands as soon as possible and no later than June

10, 2011. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to meet to discuss the City's plans, I can be reached at (408) 299-5127 or at [neelima.palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:neelima.palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org) or you may contact Dunia Noel, LAFCO Asst. Executive Officer, at (408) 299-5148 / [dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org). Thank for you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Neelima Palacherla  
LAFCO Executive Officer

Attachment:

Maps of Unincorporated Islands in City's Urban Service Area prepared by the Santa Clara County Planning Office

**Cc:**

Thomas Haglund, City Manager, City of Cupertino

Gilroy City Council Members

Jody Hall Esser, Director, Dept. of Planning & Development, Santa Clara County  
LAFCO Members





**76.5 Acres**  
GR01

**Gilroy**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
**Urban Islands 2011**

Maps depicting unincorporated lands located within the cities' Urban Service Areas (USAs)

Gilroy: Page 1 of 4



Urban Service Area



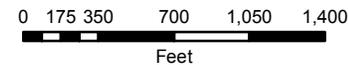
Urban Island ≤ 150 Acres



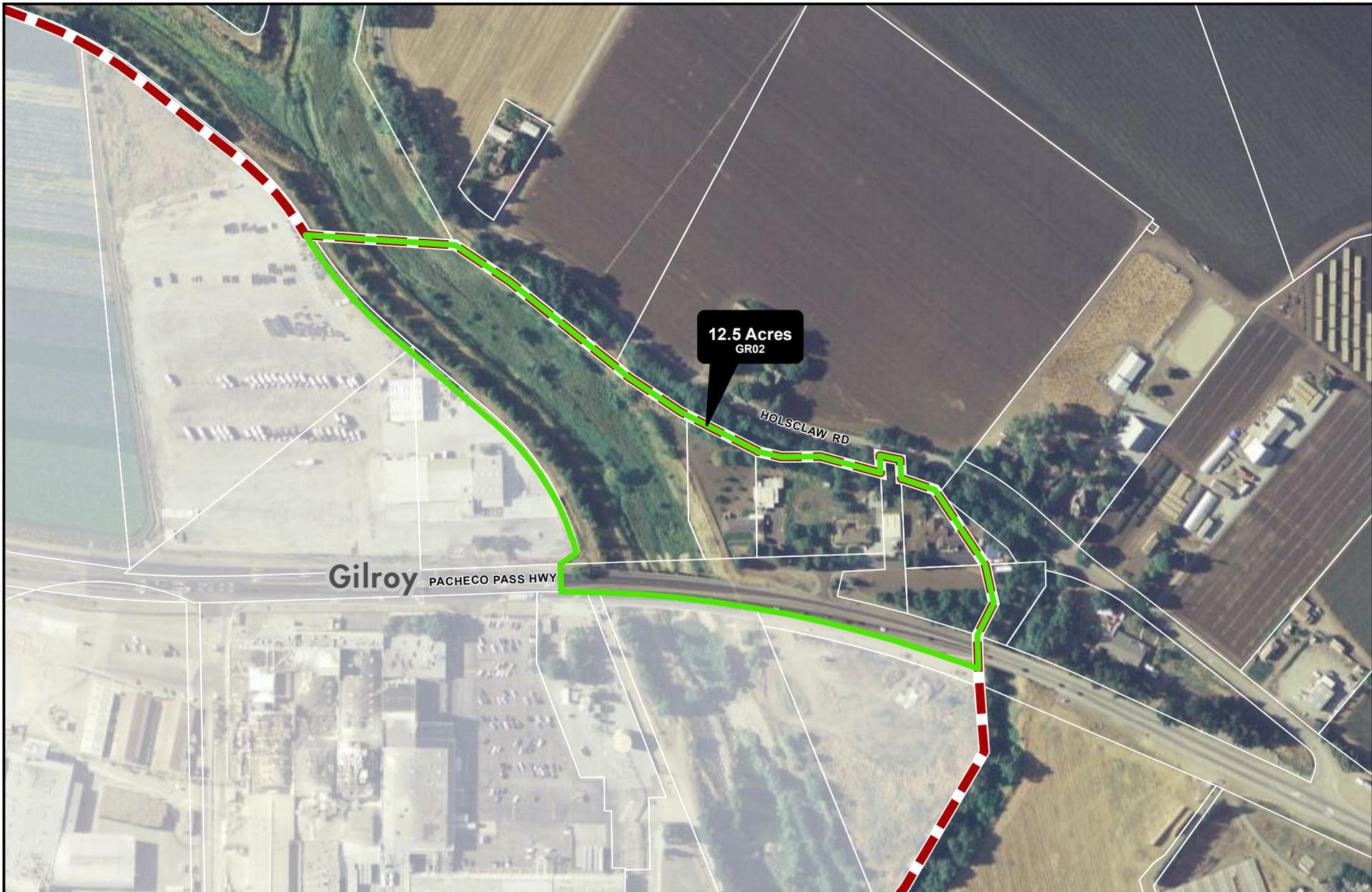
Incorporated Areas



Urban Island > 150 Acres



This map created by the Santa Clara County Planning Office. The GIS data was compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Planning Office assumes no liability.  
3/9/2011 9:38:23 AM Y:\Projects\Urban Islands\Urban Islands 2011\UrbanIslands2011\_Gilroy\_enhanced.mxd



12.5 Acres  
GR02

HOLSCLAW RD

Gilroy PACHECO PASS HWY

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
**Urban Islands 2011**

Maps depicting unincorporated lands located within the cities' Urban Service Areas (USAs)

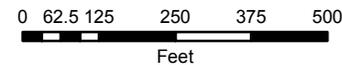
Gilroy: Page 2 of 4

 Urban Service Area

 Incorporated Areas

 Urban Island ≤ 150 Acres

 Urban Island > 150 Acres



This map created by the Santa Clara County Planning Office. The GIS data was compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Planning Office assumes no liability. 3/9/2011 9:38:23 AM Y:\Projects\Urban Islands\Urban Islands 2011\UrbanIslands2011\_Gilroy\_enhanced.mxd



16.5 Acres  
GR03

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
**Urban Islands 2011**

Maps depicting unincorporated lands located within the cities' Urban Service Areas (USAs)



Urban Service Area



Urban Island ≤ 150 Acres



Incorporated Areas



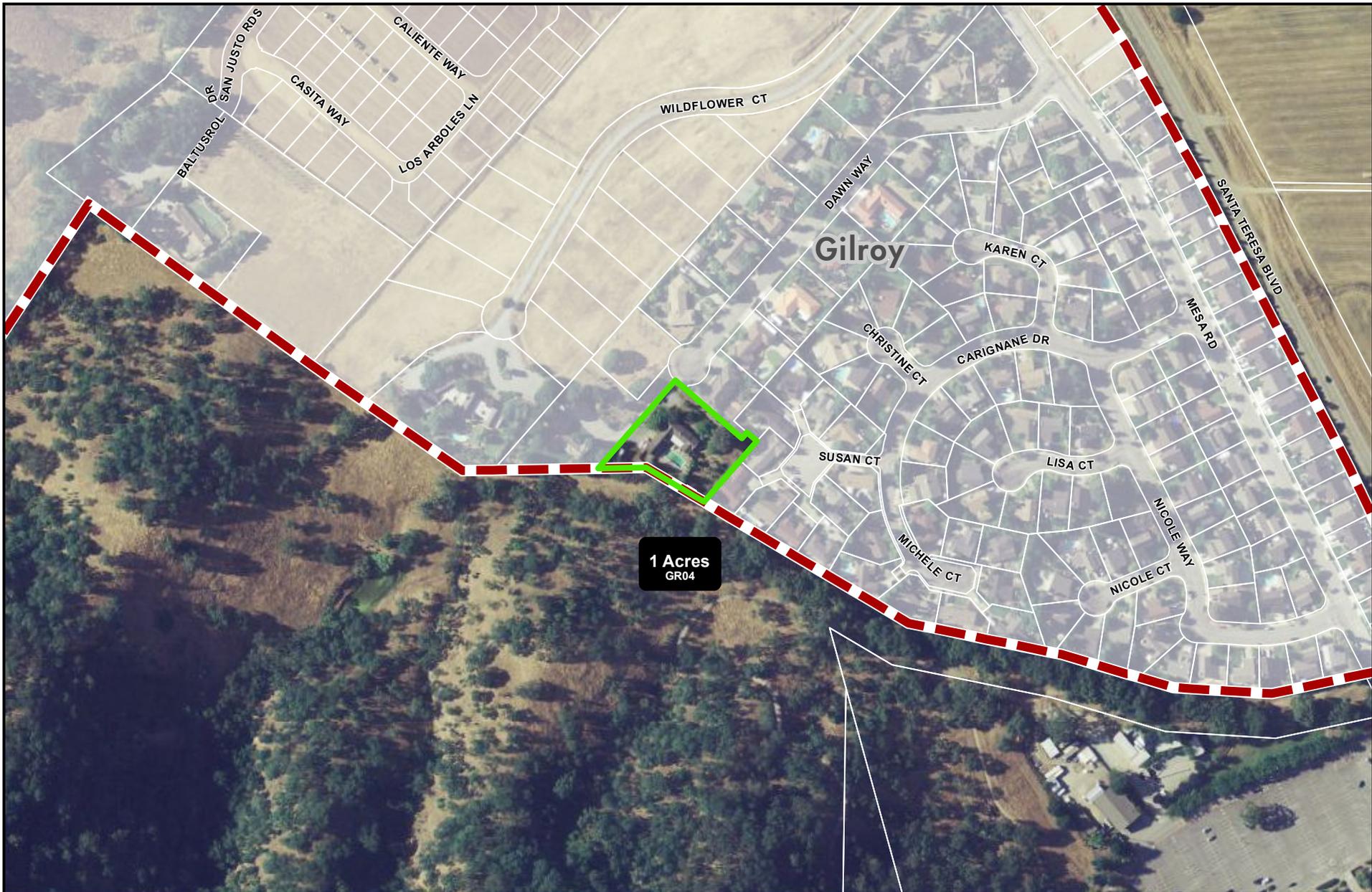
Urban Island > 150 Acres



Feet



This map created by the Santa Clara County Planning Office. The GIS data was compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Planning Office assumes no liability. 3/9/2011 9:38:23 AM Y:\Projects\Urban Islands\Urban Islands 2011\UrbanIslands2011\_Gilroy\_enhanced.mxd



**1 Acres**  
GR04

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
**Urban Islands 2011**

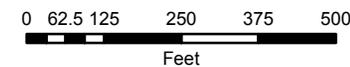
Maps depicting unincorporated lands located within the cities' Urban Service Areas (USAs)

 Urban Service Area

 Incorporated Areas

 Urban Island ≤ 150 Acres

 Urban Island > 150 Acres



This map created by the Santa Clara County Planning Office. The GIS data was compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Planning Office assumes no liability. 3/9/2011 9:38:23 AM Y:\Projects\Urban Islands\Urban Islands 2011\UrbanIslands2011\_Gilroy\_enhanced.mxd